

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RADON ACTION MONTH – RADON IN EAU CLAIRE HOMES

Eau Claire, WI – January 2, 2013. Noting that January is National Radon Action Month, the United States Environmental Protection Administration (U.S.E.P.A.) and The Eau Claire City-County Health Department are encouraging everyone to learn more about radon and the harmful effects of exposure to this odorless gas.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the soil beneath and around a home. In some homes it may accumulate to levels that may create a risk to the occupants of that home. According to the U.S.E.P.A., radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Radon test results of over 1200 homes in the Eau Claire area, tested between 1985 and 2010 have found that thirty-seven percent (39%) of homes have radon levels that exceed the USEPA standard of 4 picoCuries/Liter (pCi/L). Of those homes with exceeding levels, three percent (4%) have recorded a level of 20.0 pCi/L or above (a level that would require immediate action to protect the home occupants).

Even though there are statistics for radon levels locally in the Eau Claire area, there is no way to predict what the level of radon will be in your home. The only way to know is to test. Radon has no smell, taste or color, and therefore, it is impossible to detect with the human senses. It can be easily measured with a simple and inexpensive test. Test kits for this purpose can be purchased from the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, which is located on the ground floor of the Eau Claire County Courthouse at 720 Second Avenue. If you decide to test your home, use only test kits approved by the U.S.E.P.A.

If elevated radon levels are found in a home, the home can usually be fixed at a reasonable cost. A trained and certified contractor should do all the contracting work. For more information on radon and radon testing, please contact the WestCentral Regional Radon Information Center at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718 or visit our website at www.eauclairewi.gov/radon. You can also obtain information at the Wisconsin Dept. of Health website www.lowradon.org.

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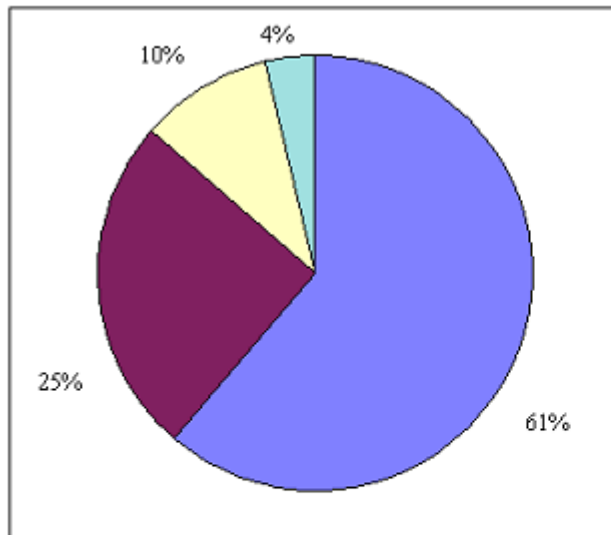
Health Department

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www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/health

Eau Claire County Radon Results (%) from 1985-2010



Recommended Actions

0 – 3.9pCi/L = EPA Indoor Standard for Residential Homes

4.0 - 7.9pCi/L = Levels Requiring long-term testing and evaluation

8.0 - 19.9pCi/L = Immediate short-term follow-up, using the average of the two test results for final decision

20.0 pCi/L or more = Immediate Action

Range 0.2 - 3.9 pCi/L = 61%	Blue
Range 4.0 - 7.9 pCi/L = 25%	Pink
Range 8.0 - 19.9 pCi/L = 10%	Yellow
Range 20.0 pCi/L or greater = 4%	Green